Central Bank of India has however stated that the reversion of the staff candidates, who had already completed more than two years as Field Supervisors, may lead to avoidable litigation It has, therefore, been suggested by the Bank to appoint the nine empanelled candidates without displacement of the existing staff candidates against the available vacancies of Field Supervisors.

Export of spices

2417. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to strengthen the existing market intelligence to improve the export potential with regard to major spices;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a declining trend in the export of major spices this year as compared to previous year; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The Spices Board collects market intelligence, through our Missions, its offices at Bahrain and through private trade channels. No deficiency has been noticed in this system so far.

(b) The experts of pepper and chillis have gone up in value. Export of cardamom and turmeric have fallen There is however only a marginal decline in export of other spices

(c) The main reasons for fall in exports have been high domestic consumption of certain items leading to less availability of goods for export, stiff competition in the international market due to high prices of certain commodities like cardamom etc.

Financial aid to states for enforcement of labour laws

2418. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to give financial aid to the States to ensure enforcement of labour laws, and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme is in operation since 1978-79 under which the State Governments are provided Central Assistance on a matching grant (50:50) basis for rehabilitation of bonded labour. The amount of grants released to the State Governments (State-wise) from 1978-79 to 1986-87 is given is the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLIV, Annexure No. 107]

The Central Government has started a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on a pilot basis for giving financial assistance to four States *viz.* Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and Manipur for strengthening Enforcement Machinery for implementation of the Minimum Wages in agriculture. The Central Government bears 100 per cent expenditure in respect of salaries and allowances of the Inspectors posted under the Scheme while all related expenditure on the pay & allowances of the supervisory and ministerial staff as also the expenditure on travelling allowance and contingencies will be borne by the State Governments The total plan outlay under the 7th Plan is Rs 200 lakhs The amount released to the four States during the financial year 1985-86 and 1986-87 is Rs. 0.14 and 21 13 lakhs respectively. The budget for the current financial year is Rs. 32 lakhs.

A Scheme for strengthening the enforcement machinery in the States for effective implementation of labour laws pertaining to women and child labour will be introduced on a pilot basis in four States

viz. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh The expenditure on the Scheme will be shared on 50:50 basis between the Centre and the States.

Problems of textile industry

2419. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Ministerial Committee has been set up to study the problems of textile industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

News item captioned "workers to run NTC Mills"

2420. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA. Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Economic Times (Calcutta edition) of the 1st November 1987 entitled "workers to run NTC mills"; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Govt. has not taken any final decision regarding the future disposition of the losing mills of NTC.

Settlement of Income-tax cases of companies in Kanpur

2421. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pelased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from various companies in Kanpur about the settlement of their claims against the Income-tax Department;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take for the expeditious settlement of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Financial assistance to sick units

2422. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have directed the financial institutions to stop continuing financial relief to sick units;

(b) whether Government have also directed these financial institutions to monitor the working of private sector units in which they have invested huge amounts;

(c) whether these directives have been observed by the financial institutions;

(d) whether Narmada Cement Company managed by M/s. Chowgules with a share capital of Rs. 15 crores has made a total loss of Rs. 26 crores (year ended 31st December, 1986) and that IDBI has given Rs. 84 crores loans to this Company; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons for this continued financial support?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) The financial institutions have evolved, and are observing, a monitoring mechanism for their assisted units.

(d) and (e) As per the statutes governing public financial institutions and the practices and usages customary among the bankers information relating to or to the affairs of the individual constituents cannot be divulged.